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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

WOITACH, JOSEPH T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1632

DATE MAILED: 04/18/2003

60

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/986,033

Applicant(s)
Bureau et al.

Examiner
Joseph Weitach

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1632



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Feb 7, 2001
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 85-117 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claims 85-117 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

This application is a continuation of 09/341,350, filed July 9, 1999, now abandoned, which is a 371 National stage filing of PCT/FR98/01400, filed June 30, 1998, which claims benefit to US provisional application 60/067,488, filed December 1, 1997.

Applicants preliminary amendments both filed November 7, 2001, papers number 8 and 9, have been received and entered. The specification has been amended. Claims 1-84 have been canceled. Claims 85-117 have been added. Claims 85-117 are pending and currently under examination.

Election/Restriction

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 85-103, 114, and 115, drawn to a method for promoting angiogenesis by providing a polynucleotide which encodes a angiogenic factor to a cell *in vivo*, classified in class 514, subclass 44.
- II. Claims 104-106, and 111, drawn to a method for promoting hemostasis by providing a polynucleotide which encodes a blood clotting factor to a cell *in vivo*, classified in class 514, subclass 44.

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- III. Claims 107, 108, and 116, drawn to a method for stimulating nerve growth by providing a polynucleotide which encodes a neurotrophic factor to a cell *in vivo*, classified in class 514, subclass 44.
- IV. Claims 109, 110, and 113, drawn to a method for promoting formation of red blood cells by providing a polynucleotide which encodes a hematopoietic factor to a cell *in vivo*, classified in class 514, subclass 44.
- V. Claim 112, drawn to a method for expressing secreted alkaline phosphatase by providing a polynucleotide which encodes a SeAP factor to a cell *in vivo*, classified in class 514, subclass 44.
- VI. Claim 117, drawn to a method for expressing human growth hormone by providing a polynucleotide which encodes a human growth hormone to a cell *in vivo*, classified in class 514, subclass 44.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I-VI are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions are drawn to different methods which provide different outcomes and effect. Further, to practice each of the inventions different starting materials are required such as the specific polynucleotides encoding the gene of interest, and different method steps must be practiced to provide for the materially different outcomes of practicing each of the methods.

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In addition, if groups I, II, III or IV are elected, a further election of species is required to elect a single species from (a), (b), (c), or (d), respectively. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention as follows:

- (a) angiogenic factors: VEGF, FGF 1, angiopoietin 1, angiopoietin 2, endothelin;
- (b) hemostasis/blood-clotting factors: factor VII, factor VIII, factor IX;
- (c) neurotrophic factors: NGF, BDNF, NT3, NT4/5, NT6;
- (d) hematopoietic factors: erythropoietin, GM-CSF, M-CSF, LIF.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, each of the separate species of angiogenic factors, hemostasis/blood-clotting factors, neurotrophic and hematopoietic factors are generic to each of the specific inventions set forth in Groups I-IV, respectively. Each of the species has a different and distinct structure at the level of the polynucleotide and at the level of the protein encoded. Further, the encoded proteins have inherent properties and activities which are not equivalent one to the other among the specific species set forth

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

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Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, and the search required for each of the groups is different and unique, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

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Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph Woitach whose telephone number is (703)305-3732.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Deborah Reynolds, can be reached at (703)305-4051.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group analyst Dianiece Jacobs whose telephone number is (703) 308-2141.

Papers related to this application may be submitted by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed via the PTO Fax Center located in Crystal Mall 1. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). The CM1 Fax Center numbers are (703)308-4242 and (703)305-3014.

Joseph T. Woitach


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